

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0089] beginning on page 21, lines 15 through 24 with the following amended paragraph:

[0089] As used herein, the “hinge region” of an antibody refers to a stretch of peptide sequence between the CH1 and CH2 domains of an antibody. Hinge regions occur between Fab and Fc portions of an antibody. Hinge regions are generally encoded by unique exons, and contain disulfide bonds that link the two heavy chain fragments of the antibody. See Paul et al., *Fundamental Immunology*, 3rd Ed. (1993). The amino acid sequence of a hinge region can be generally rich in proline, serine, and threonine residues. For example, the extended peptide sequences between the CH1 and CH2 domains of IgG, IgD, and IgA are rich in prolines. IgM and IgE antibodies include a domain of about 110 amino acids that possesses hinge-like features (Ramshaw I, Ruby J, Ramsay A, Ada G, Karupiah G., *Expression of cytokines by recombinant vaccinia viruses: a model for studying cytokines in virus infections in vivo*. Immunol Rev. 1992 Jun;127:157-82) (~~Ruby, J., Immunology (1992)~~), and are included in the term “hinge region” as used herein.